

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An apparatus for covering a seam extending between first and second panels of a vehicle, the first and second panels comprising opposing shoulders adjacent the seam at least

5 partially defining a ditch having a width and a height, comprising:

an elongate section of molding comprising first and second ends, an upper surface comprising a desired aesthetic finish for the vehicle, and a lower surface; and

10 a plurality of mounts extending from the lower surface and spaced apart from one another between the first and second ends of the molding, each mount comprising a width less than the width of the ditch such that the mount may be secured in the ditch to the vehicle, each mount comprising a height such that, when the  
15 mounts are secured in the ditch, the molding extends along the ditch without touching the shoulders.

2. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising flexible trim extending along at least one side edge of the molding at  
20 least partially between the first and second ends, the flexible trim contacting at least one of the shoulders when the mounts are mounted in the ditch.

3. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the molding comprises a substantially rigid member having a shape between the first and second ends contoured to conform substantially to a contour of the first and second panels.

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4. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a roof rack member extending from the upper surface of the molding.

5. The apparatus of claim 4, wherein the roof rack member  
10 is mounted to the molding opposite the mounts.

6. The apparatus of claim 4, wherein the roof rack member is mounted to the molding at the mounts.

15 7. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the desired finish comprises paint.

8. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein at least one of the first and second panels comprises a flange extending along at  
20 least a portion of the ditch, and at least one of the plurality of mounts comprises a clip for engaging the flange.

9. An apparatus for covering a seam extending between first and second panels of a vehicle, the first and second panels

comprising opposing shoulders at least partially defining a ditch having a width and a height, comprising:

an elongate substantially rigid section of molding comprising first and second ends defining a longitudinal axis

5 therebetween, an upper surface, and a lower surface;

a plurality of mounts extending from the lower surface and spaced apart from one another between the first and second ends of the molding, each mount comprising a width less than the width of the ditch such that the mount may be mounted in the ditch to  
10 the vehicle, each mount comprising a height such that, when the mounts are mounted in the ditch, the molding extends along the ditch without touching the shoulders; and

a roof rack member extending from the upper surface of the molding, and attached to the molding adjacent the plurality of  
15 mounts.

10. The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the roof rack member comprises a plurality of stanchions for attaching the roof rack member to the molding, and wherein the plurality of mounts  
20 comprise extensions of the plurality of stanchions extending through the molding.

11. A method for covering a seam extending between first and second panels of a vehicle, the first and second panels

comprising opposing shoulders at least partially defining a ditch having a width and a height, the method comprising:

providing an elongate section of molding comprising first and second ends, an upper surface and a lower surface;

5 mounting the molding to the vehicle at a plurality of discrete locations within the ditch such that the molding extends along the ditch without touching the shoulders.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein the providing step  
10 comprises shaping the molding to a shape between the first and second ends contoured to conform to a contour of the first and second panels.

13. The method of claim 12, wherein the shape comprises at  
15 least one of a curved portion and a substantially straight portion extending at least partially between the first and second ends.

14. The method of claim 12, wherein the molding is shaped  
20 by at least one of extruding, roll-forming, and molding.

15. The method of claim 11, where the providing step comprises applying a desired finish to the upper surface of the molding.

16. The method of claim 15, wherein applying the desired finish comprises painting the upper surface.

5        17. The method of claim 11, wherein the providing step comprises attaching a plurality of mounts to the lower surface of the molding spaced apart from one another between the first and second ends.

10       18. The method of claim 17, wherein the molding is mounted to the vehicle by securing the plurality of mounts within the ditch.

15       19. The method of claim 18, wherein a flange extends from at least a portion of the ditch, and wherein at least one of the mounts comprises a clip, and wherein the clip is secured within the ditch by attaching the clip to the flange.

20       20. The method of claim 11, further comprising attaching a length of flexible trim along at least one side edge of the molding, the trim contacting the shoulder of the ditch adjacent the one side edge.

21. The method of claim 11, further comprising attached a length of flexible trim along both side edges of the molding, the trim contacting the shoulders of the ditch adjacent the respective side edges.

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22. The method of claim 11, wherein the first panel comprises a roof panel, and the second panel comprises a side panel such that the ditch extends between a windshield and a rear window of the vehicle.

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23. The method of claim 22, wherein the molding is mounted to the vehicle such that a first end of the section of molding extends along a side of the windshield of the vehicle.

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24. The method of claim 22, wherein the vehicle comprises a second side panel opposite the side panel, the second side panel and the roof panel comprising shoulders defining a second ditch therebetween, the method further comprising mounting a second section of molding to the vehicle at a plurality of discrete locations within the second ditch such that the molding extends along the ditch without touching the shoulders of the second side panel and the roof panel.

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25. The method of claim 24, further comprising providing roof rack members on the molding and the second section of molding, the method further comprising attaching a carrier accessory between the roof rack members.

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26. The method of claim 11, further comprising attaching a roof rack member to the upper surface of the molding.

27. The method of claim 26, wherein the roof rack member  
10 comprises a rail extending between stanchions, and wherein the roof rack member is attached to the upper surface of the molding by attaching the stanchions to the molding.